



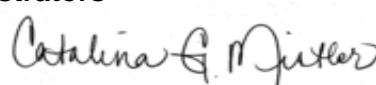
OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

July 31, 2008

GOM 2008-13

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: 2008-09 Cal Grant Programs Update

The purpose of this Operations Memo is to provide an update on the following 2008-09 academic year Cal Grant award processes:

- Cal Grant Renewal Process
- Transfer Entitlement Awards
- Top 2 Percent Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards
- Cal Grant C

As of today, the State of California does not have a budget in place. Therefore, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) has no authority to issue Cal Grant funds until a budget is enacted. Commission staff remain committed to ensuring that all award processes continue so that award funds can be disbursed once the budget is passed.

Cal Grant Renewal Process

The 2008-09 Cal Grant renewal awards process will continue through December 2008. The Commission has renewed over 191,000 Cal Grant award offers to potential participants. However, students who do not have a 2007-08 payment posted on WebGrants must establish their eligibility to receive a renewal award or they will be withdrawn. To establish renewal eligibility for the student, institutions must post a 2007-08 payment or request a leave of absence for the student from the Commission. Students who do not have a 2007-08 payment or leave of absence posted by the end of the year will be withdrawn and no longer eligible to receive Cal Grant funds.



State of California
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The Commission produces the following reports on the WebGrants “Data Transfer” screen to identify students whose renewal Cal Grant eligibility is unclear:

- *Unable to Determine Rosters:* Lists students who had 2007-08 Cal Grant award offers but were not renewed because we did not receive a 2007-08 payment request or a request for a leave of absence.
- *Automatic Leave Reports:* Lists students who had 2007-08 award offers and were renewed despite not having a school term accounted for or paid for the academic year.

Schools are encouraged to work these reports as soon as possible to ensure students are afforded every opportunity to retain their awards. Students are encouraged to update their school of attendance and enrollment status by using WebGrants for Students. Schools also now have access on WebGrants to process school changes for students who are transferring to their institution for fall 2008.

Transfer Entitlement Awards

The Commission is currently processing the 2008-09 Transfer Entitlement Cal Grant Certification Forms (G-6) that have been returned. Once the G-6 forms are processed, these participants will be placed in an eligible payment status on the Cal Grant roster. Those students who have not yet submitted their G-6 Form will remain in an on-hold status.

Top Two Percent Cal Grant B Entitlement Awards

Most entering freshman (EL-1) Cal Grant B Entitlement recipients will receive only the access portion (\$1,551) of the grant in the first year of the program. When scored on a competitive basis, California Education Code Section 69538(d) authorizes the Commission to offer tuition/fee payments, in addition to the access portion of the award, to the top two percent of first year Entitlement Cal Grant B participants. This group is commonly referred to as the “Top Two Percent.” The Commission has processed those awards and notified the selected students. As a result, the award amounts listed on the rosters reflect the new award amounts. If these students attend a school other than a community college they may receive tuition/fee payments during their freshman year in addition to the access portion of the award.

Cal Grant C

The Commission mailed approximately 35,000 Cal Grant C Supplements to students who are potentially eligible for a Cal Grant C award. This number included students who would qualify for a Competitive Cal Grant A or B award if the program is funded for 2008-09. A roster of potentially eligible Cal Grant C applicants is available in WebGrants from the “Report Download” link on the Data Transfer Menu. The report is titled “Cal C Supplement Recipient” report.

The Cal Grant C Supplement requests additional information about the student’s educational plans and work history and requests a recommendation by a professional contact who knows the applicant. Participants were asked to complete and return the forms within 30 days of the date on their Cal Grant C notification letter. The Commission expects to make the authorized number of Cal Grant C awards as soon as a final 2008-09 fiscal year State Budget is approved. Once awarded, notification

letters will be mailed to students. Schools will then be able to view new Cal Grant C recipients on WebGrants and their rosters.

Cal Grant Forms Processing Update

Commission staff are diligently processing the above mentioned forms and making every effort to manage the workload prior to commencement of the 2008 fall term. Given existing limited resources and the impact of a late State Budget defining the outcome of the Cal Grant Competitive Program, Commission staff may be unable to process all Cal Grant C forms by the end of August. The delay in processing will cause late award notifications and payments for these students. We will continue to communicate with you and provide status updates regarding the impact these processes may have on students.

If you have any questions regarding this Operations Memo, please contact School Support Services, at (888) 294-0153 or by e-mail to schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov.

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